

On Mon, Mar 22, 2010 at 3:21 PM, Nairn, Mary Jo <[NairnM@district112.org](mailto:NairnM@district112.org)> wrote:

Greetings!

I teach 6<sup>th</sup> grade physical science and **I'm looking for some ideas for a project I'd like my students to do as they learn about different energy resources (fossil fuels, nuclear, solar, water, wind, geothermal, biomass).**

I'd like them to research one of the resources and then create an interactive poster on glogster, or a better-than-average power point or a brochure on publisher, something like that. I'm open to newer, better project ideas too! How about any differentiated projects? Anyone have one they could share?

***Mary Jo (MJ) Nairn***

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see attached activity - I use it with my 6th graders every year - in groups, they research alternative energy resources, create a 9 slide powerpoint, present it to the class trying to convince us that their form of energy is our best option. Then we vote on which would be best for us to use ( students usually conclude that the choice varies with the area you live in).  
Margie Gifford>

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Not for sixth graders, but for teachers and high school physics students, I highly recommend [www.withouthotair.com](http://www.withouthotair.com), David MacKay's primer on sustainable energy. It's available as a book, but also free for the downloading. It has a wealth of information including simple physics models of every significant energy source and use, backed up by published statistics. He has no particular axe to grind - my favorite quote from the book is "I'm not pro-nuclear [or pro-any other technology], I'm just pro-arithmetic". He's mostly focused on the UK, but it's not hard to find equivalent data for the US.

-Mark Holthouse  
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I have my seniors in class do one in which they have to pose as a company looking to build a new power plant and have to convince me and their classmates to invest in them through an informative presentation. When I can, I have a couple of other teachers and/or parents come in and help me judge their presentations. As with all good sale-pitches they also have to produce something to leave behind for me to look at. This year I had them produce a brochure.

I attached what I did this year including rubrics. I had them get detailed in the actual making of electricity part of their plant but that could be scaled back, or not, for your 6th graders.

Paula

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<http://www.need.org/> is full of energy related ideas! Last year we held an Energy fair and students were allowed to present their information in pretty much any format I just told them what each must include. I then invited younger grades to come and visit and the kids shared that way as opposed to individual presentations.

Let me know if you would like more details.

-Caitlyn